

R E M A R K S

The outstanding Office Action of November 17, 2004 rejects claims 1 through 3, 9 through 11, 17, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103. In addition, claims 1 through 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. However, the outstanding Office Action does indicate that claims 4 through 8, 12 through 16 and 19 through 21 contain allowable subject matter and that with amendment, these claims would be allowed. The application has been amended in response to the Examiner's comments and is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

- The claims have been presented in ascending numerical order. Each claim has been provided with the proper status identifier. This list will replace the prior version and listing of claims in the application.
- No Claims remain in this application as originally submitted.
- Claims 5 through 8, 13 through 18 and 20 through 23 have been amended.
- Claims 1 through 4, 9 through 12 and 19 have been cancelled.
- Claims 24 through 26 are new.

Specifically, newly submitted independent claim 24, claims 1 through 4 combined in rewritten form, defines a mast support to support a multi-section mast comprising a mast support including an outer surface having a plurality of connector brackets extending outwardly from the outer surface thereof and a correspondingly plurality of support legs each pivotally coupled to the upper portion of the corresponding connector bracket and slidably coupled to the mid to lower portion of the corresponding connector bracket to permit the support legs to be selectively moved between a stored and deployed position and to advance successive mast

sections through the mast support from beneath or below the mast support. The mast support comprises a plurality of substantially flat outer surfaces corresponding to a the plurality of connector brackets having an elongated mast receiving channel to receive and support a portion of the multi-section mast therein and each connector bracket comprises a pair of substantially parallel spaced apart bracket members extending outwardly from a correspondingly substantially flat outer surface to cooperatively form a leg receiving channel therebetween to selectively receive a portion of a corresponding leg member therein when the mast stand is in the stored position. Each bracket member comprises a substantially flat plate including a coplanar coupling protrusion on the upper end portion thereof having a coupling aperture formed therethrough to receive an upper coupling member to pivotally couple the upper portion of the corresponding leg member between the corresponding pair of substantially parallel spaced apart bracket members of the corresponding connector bracket and a guide or slot formed through the substantially flat plate to slidably receive a bracket coupling member therethrough connected to one end portion of a leg/bracket interconnecting member having the opposite end portion thereof pivotally coupled to a corresponding leg member by a lower leg coupling member in spaced relationship below the corresponding upper coupling member.

As noted by Examiner Wujciak, none of the references either teach or suggest the structure claimed in newly submitted independent claim 24. Accordingly, newly submitted independent claim 24 is believed allowable and such is respectively requested.

Moreover, dependent claims 5, through 8 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from newly submitted independent claim 24. While each contains additional structural elements, each of these dependent claims contains all the structural elements of newly submitted independent claim 24 and therefore is also believed in condition for allowance.

Newly submitted independent claim 25, claims 9 through 12 combined in rewritten form, defines a mast support to support a multi-section mast comprising a mast support having a plurality of connector brackets thereon and a correspondingly plurality of support legs each pivotally coupled to the corresponding connector bracket and slidably coupled to the corresponding connector bracket to permit the support legs to be selectively moved between a stored and deployed position and to advance successive mast sections through the mast support from beneath or below the mast support. The mast support comprises a plurality of substantially flat outer surfaces corresponding to the plurality of connector brackets having an elongated mast receiving channel to receive and support a portion of the multi-section mast therein and each connector bracket comprises a pair of substantially parallel spaced apart bracket members extending outwardly from a correspondingly substantially flat outer surface to cooperatively form a leg receiving channel therebetween to selectively receive a portion of a corresponding leg member therein when the mast stand is in the stored position. Each bracket member includes an upper end portion comprising a substantially flat plate including a coplanar coupling protrusion on the upper end portion thereof having a coupling aperture formed therethrough to receive an upper coupling member to pivotally couple the upper portion of the corresponding

leg member between the corresponding pair of substantially parallel spaced apart bracket members of the corresponding connector bracket and a guide or slot formed through the substantially flat plate to slidably receive a bracket coupling member therethrough connected to one end portion of a leg/bracket interconnecting member having an opposite end portion thereof pivotally coupled to a corresponding leg member by a lower leg coupling member in spaced relationship below the corresponding upper coupling member.

As observed by Examiner Wujciak, none of the references either teach or suggest the structure claimed in newly submitted independent claim 25. Accordingly, newly submitted independent claim 25 is believed allowable and such is respectively requested.

Moreover, dependent claims 13 through 18 depend either directly or indirectly from newly submitted independent claim 25. While each contains additional structural elements, each of these dependent claims contains all the structural elements of newly submitted independent claim 25 and therefore is also believed in condition for allowance.

Newly submitted independent claim 26, claims 9 and 17 through 19 combined in rewritten form, defines a mast support to support a multi-section mast comprising a mast support having a plurality of connector brackets thereon and a correspondingly plurality of support legs each pivotally coupled to the corresponding connector bracket and slidably coupled to the corresponding connector bracket to permit the support legs to be selectively moved between a stored and deployed position and to advance successive mast sections through the mast support from

beneath or below the mast support. The mast support comprises a sleeve having an elongated mast receiving channel formed therethrough to receive and support a portion of the multi-section mast therein wherein each the connector bracket comprises at least one bracket member extending outwardly from the sleeve to selectively receive a portion of a corresponding leg member therein when the mast stand is in the stored position and each said bracket member comprises a plate including a coupling aperture formed therethrough to receive an upper coupling member to pivotally couple the upper portion of the corresponding leg member between the corresponding bracket member and a guide of slot formed through said plate to slidably receive a bracket coupling member therethrough connected to one end portion of a leg/bracket interconnecting member having the opposite end portion thereof pivotally coupled to a corresponding leg member by a lower leg coupling member in spaced relationship below the corresponding upper coupling member.

As stated by Examiner Wujciak, none of the references either teach or suggest the structure claimed in newly submitted independent claim 26. Accordingly, newly submitted independent claim 26 is believed allowable and such is respectively requested.

Moreover, dependent claims 20 through 23 depend either directly or indirectly from newly submitted independent claim 26. While each contains additional structural elements, each of these dependent claims contains all the structural elements of newly submitted independent claim 26 and therefore is also believed in condition for allowance.

The outstanding Office Action further notes that page 2, line 2, is incorrect in that the "Field of the Invention" is "Field f the Inventi n". Applicant respectfully suggests that the apparent 'typo' is a scanning error at the USPTO. Attached is a true and correct copy of page 2 as originally submitted on December 5, 2003.

In view of the amendments contained herein and the discussion in support thereof, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding, in the event that this response does not completely and fully address the matters and issues set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Examiner Wujciak is invited to contact Applicant's attorney by telephone in order to expeditiously conclude this prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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